

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 H-02 SS-15 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00

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P 022101Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 190874

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, CA

SUBJECT: BORDER TELEVISION PROBLEMS

REF: STATE 189736, 7/31/76

1. FOLLOWING IS CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE REGARDING  
LETTER OF 18 SENATORS ON BORDER T.V. PROBLEMS WITH CANADA  
(REFTEL). QUESTION DID NOT ARISE AT DEPARTMENT'S NOON  
PRESS BRIEFING. BEGIN TEXT--

QUESTION: A BIPARTISAN GROUP OF 18 SENATORS HAS WRITTEN TO  
THE SECRETARY URGING THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY  
WITH NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA ON THE ENTIRE RANGE OF BORDER  
T.V. ISSUES, INCLUDING TAX CHANGES RECENTLY ENACTED BY  
CANADA. WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE?

ANSWER: WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING BORDER T.V. ISSUES WITH  
THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA FOR SOME TIME. WE HAD AN INITIAL  
MEETING IN OTTAWA LAST JANUARY AND WE EXPECT TO HAVE A  
FOLLOW-UP MEETING IN WASHINGTON IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WHERE  
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WE WOULD PLAN TO RAISE THE FULL RANGE OF BORDER T.V. PROB-

LEMS OF IMPORTANCE TO US.

QUESTION: HAS CANADA AGREED TO NEGOTIATE ITS TAX POLICIES  
AS WELL AS DELETION OF ADVERTISING?

ANSWER: THESE TALKS HAVE FOCUSSED PRIMARILY ON THE QUESTION OF COMMERCIAL DELETION, BUT WE HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT WE CONSIDER THE TAX CHANGES REFERRED TO IN THE SENATE LETTER AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE BROADCAST PROBLEM. WE HAVE REQUESTED THAT THERE BE NO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TAX LEGISLATION OR CANADA'S DELETION POLICY WHILE THE TWO SIDES CONTINUE EFFORTS TO FIND ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO ACCOMPLISH CANADIAN BROADCAST POLICY OBJECTIVES THAT WOULD NOT IMPACT SO ADVERSELY ON U.S. INTERESTS. UP TO NOW THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN THE POSITION THAT THE TAX AND DELETION PROBLEMS ARE SEPARATE AND SHOULD NOT BE ADDRESSED TOGETHER. THIS DIFFERENCE IN OUR APPROACHES REMAINS AND WE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RAISE THE QUESTION AGAIN WHEN WE MEET NEXT.-- END TEXT. HABIB

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## Message Attributes

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